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scholar; for the volume is mostly taken up with the niceties of the ancient land law, now quite obsolete. But for the historian of life the volume is full of interest. He shall see the Prior building a wall across the churchyard; the parishioners nursing their wrath for seven years and then throwing it down. He shall see a Prior and a Prioress contending for tithes of wheat cut on the Prioress' land. He shall hear oath for oath pass between bench and bar: "BEREFORD, C. J. *Nom de dieu* you will find it in the law of England. If . . . Margery had entered . . . would Alan's sister . . . have recovered? No. SCROPE. *Nom de dieu*, sir, no more could Margery." And he shall see case after weary case where one party or the other, claiming an inheritance, was alleged to have been born before marriage.

The Introduction touches on several interesting matters, but chiefly on the origin of attorneys, and the difference between them and responders, bailiffs, and essoiners. The meaning of "demi seal" or "pes sigilli," and the reasons for using the foot of the seal only, are considered, and the word "godhynch" is left unexplained. The entire Introduction shows Mr. Bolland's usual industry and acumen.

JOSEPH H. BEALE.

SPIRIT OF THE COURTS. By Thomas W. Shelton. Baltimore: John Murphy Company. 1918. pp. xxxvii, 264.

To interest the general public in specific questions of procedural law reform is no easy task. It is not that the public is not interested in the general situation. When the stage hero is convicted of a crime on perjured testimony or because his witnesses were kidnaped by the villain, and he exclaims, "It may be law but it isn't justice," he receives a rapturous response from the audience to whom the playwright has already shown the hero's innocence. But these people in the audience have a grievance, a real grievance, although they do not know exactly what it is. There are miscarriages of justice, not only miscarriages which are inevitable in any legal system, but also miscarriages which can be and ought to be avoided. These people have a right to demand of the legal profession that it find the proper remedies. It may happen, however, that although the lawyers offer a remedy, they have not the power to effect it. Statutes may have to be enacted, and for their enactment the interest and aid of the general public may be necessary. This aid will not be forthcoming unless the public is instructed, not merely in the need for a remedy (that they know all too well) but also in the nature of the remedy offered. Mr. Shelton, as Chairman of the Committee of the American Bar Association on Uniform Judicial Procedure has for years done excellent work in the cause of procedural reform. His book is the result of a series of lectures in which he has attempted to convince the public that a path out of our present difficulties lies in the enactment of a federal statute conferring upon the Supreme Court of the United States power to regulate by rule of court procedure in the federal courts, and of state statutes conferring similar powers upon the state courts which presumably would adopt rules based upon the federal model. That he is right seems clear to a majority of lawyers interested in the cause of procedural reform. Whether he has succeeded in so presenting his case as to interest and instruct the public is more doubtful. The presentation of his ideas is not clean cut. The ideas are often buried beneath a mass of discursive rhetoric which doubtless sounded better than it reads. But he brings great enthusiasm to a great cause, and all those who have at heart the just and effective administration of the law should join in giving him aid and comfort.

A. W. S.

INCOME AND OTHER FEDERAL TAXES. By Henry Campbell Black, LL.D.
Fourth edition. Kansas City: Vernon Law Book Company. 1919.
pp. xxi, 704.

The passage of the Revenue Act of 1918 [1919] required a new edition of Judge Black's standard treatise on the Income Tax. The new law, together with the decisions of two years and the rulings of the Department, has called for a twenty-per-cent increase in the size of the book. The work appears to be done with care, and the statements of the text are sound. If a case that might be discussed is occasionally omitted, it may be laid to the newness of the subject, and to the extreme pressure of time on an author who has to get out two new editions of a book within two years. In short, Black's "Income Taxes" is an excellent book on a puzzling subject of universal interest; and each successive edition makes it more valuable.

BARNES' FEDERAL CODE: containing all federal statutes of general and public nature now in force. Edited by Uriah Barnes. Charleston, West Virginia: Virginian Law Book Company. 1919. pp. civ, 2831.

In the one hundred and thirty years during which Congress has been busily enacting statutes a vast mass of legislation has accumulated, contained in some forty bulky volumes, entitled the "Statutes at Large." So formidable grew the proportions of these books of statutes and so intricate and confused a body of law resulted, — part of the statutes being obsolete and half forgotten and other parts being mutually conflicting, — that as early as 1874 Congress authorized a revision of existing laws, and the publication in a single volume of the Revised Statutes, containing all the unrepealed laws in force up to December 1, 1873, to and including volume seventeen of the Statutes at Large. In 1878 a second edition of the Revised Statutes was published. This was followed in 1891 by a Supplement to the Revised Statutes, covering the period from 1874 to 1891, and comprising the statutes contained in volumes eighteen to twenty-six of the Statutes at Large. In 1901 a second volume of the Supplement was published; but since that time no further Revisions or Supplements have appeared.

With a view, however, of simplifying the arrangement and avoiding the perplexities and confusion of the law as set forth in the Statutes at Large, various collections of federal statutes, conveniently arranged and classified under leading topics, have been published from time to time under the name of United States Compiled Statutes.¹ "Barnes' Federal Code," published in 1919, is the most recent contribution in this field. It comprises a collection of all the United States Statutes of general and public nature in force at the present time, and follows in the main the order and arrangement of previous editions of Compiled Statutes. The marked and admirable quality of the book is its extreme compactness, — the great mass of existing statutes being contained in full within the limits of a single volume, attractive in appearance, and easily handled and carried. Through the means of thin paper and excellent typography the size of the book has been reduced to proportions never before attained in any previous edition of United States Statutes.

Parallel Reference Tables show the corresponding section numbers in the

¹ These collections include the five-volume edition of Compiled Statutes of 1913 published by the West Publishing Company, the twelve volume edition of Compiled Statutes, 1916, Annotated, published by the same company, the five volume edition of Annotated Statutes published the same year by T. H. Flood and Company, and the recent single volume edition of Compiled Statutes, 1918, published by the West Publishing Company, — a compact, though somewhat large and bulky volume.